September 2018 Monthly Meeting

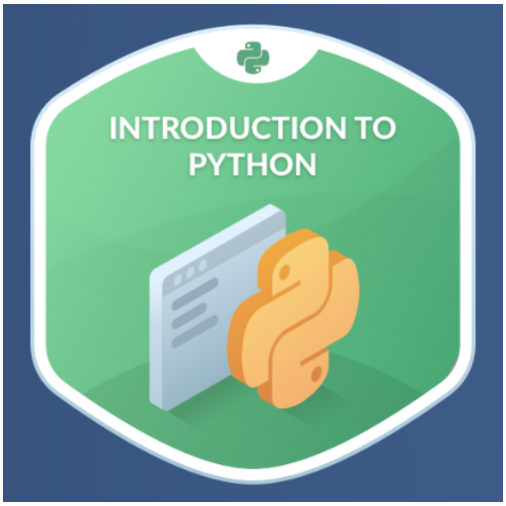
At the September 12, 2018 CDI Monthly Meeting, topics included sedimentary geology data, online python training, the CDI request for proposals, a spatiotemporal feature registry challenge, STEP-UP student opportunities at the USGS, Bayesian networks, and the USGS Thesaurus. View the recording, slides, Q&A, and highlighted links on the meeting page.

Field and Outcrop Data Challenge

September's Scientist's Challenge came from Anjali Fernandes at University of Connecticut - "do you know of an open access database that offers archival of outcrop scans (geo-referenced point clouds) & surfaces mapped on said scans, as well as geo-referenced grain-size distributions, geochemical analyses, sedimentary facies descriptions, etc.?" Initial answers include OpenTopography, Safaridb, and resources at virtualoutcrop.com.

Learn Python for Data Science Together

After August's successful foray into online learning with DataCamp's Git tutorial, we're going to try the Introduction to Python for Data Science module next. It is about a 4-hour commitment and I will send reminders from the period October 3-October 24. Read more here and sign up here.



What is the CDI Request for Proposals all about?

We've updated the 2019 Proposals wiki space in preparation for the next round of CDI project ideas!

SpatioTemporal Feature Registry

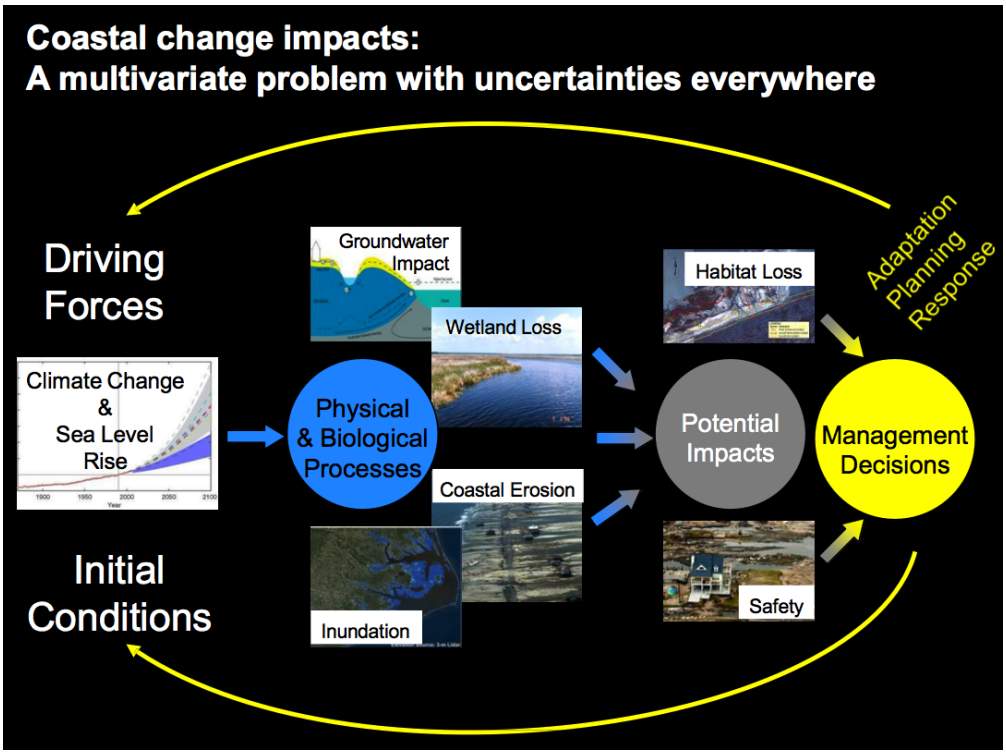
Sky Bristol presented a challenge in finding the appropriate and best sources for spatial features including boundaries, identifiers, and associated information. Read more and add your ideas at the ESIP-hosted IdeaScale site.

STEP-UP Student helps with a legacy data management challenge

Sue Kemp presented on the experience working with a STEP-UP student to remotely work on a legacy data management challenge - the SageMap site. If you think your center has a STEP-UP opportunity for a student, you can submit it at this Google Form.

Empowering Decision Makers

Erika Lentz presented some lessons learned through the ongoing conversion of a probabilistic modeling framework from proprietary to freely available open-source software. The project goal is to create a portable interactive web-interface to demonstrate how interdisciplinary USGS science and models can be transformed into an approachable format for decision-makers, such as those making decisions about impacts of sea level rise.



Using and Improving the USGS Thesaurus

Peter Schweitzer presented on the USGS Thesaurus: what it is, how you can use it, and how you can improve it. The USGS Thesaurus is an important resource that helps us to categorize, browse, and compare the data and science at USGS by using a controlled vocabulary. It is incorporated into multiple USGS data management tools, and is accessible here: https://www2.usgs.gov/science/about/.

Peter described opportunities to correct, refine, and extend Thesaurus concepts; create cross-walks to other controlled vocabularies; build more web services and application interfaces; and help other people use this resource effectively. The presentation led to an extensive Q&A which can be found on the meeting page. Contact Peter (pschweitzer@usgs.gov) if you are interested in learning more.

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